

Capitol Hill Restoration Society Board Meeting

Minutes for Meeting of October 17, 2017

Capitol Hill townhomes community Building

750 6<sup>th</sup> Street, SE, Washington, DC

Present were: Elizabeth Nelson, Monte Edwards, Adam Apton, Susan Oursler, Susan Burgerman, Michelle Carroll, Joanna Kendig, Janet Quigley, Beth Purcell, Steve Kehoe

Absent were: Patrick Lally, Tina May, Lisa Dale Jones, Beth Purcell, Nina Tristani, Chuck Burger, Greg Holeyman, Undine Nash, and Gary Peterson

Also present were: Carl Spier and Angie Schmidt

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the September 19, 2017 were agreed to as read.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The board reviewed the financial documents supplied by Adam and accountant Jill Uvena. It was noted that CHRS finished the fiscal year in a better financial situation than anticipated due to several factors including two major bequests, better than anticipated membership revenue, and a successful house tour. Thorough reviews of the organization's financial records are being conducted by Adam and Jill. Adam reported that Jill is doing a great job, and recommended that CHRS have her sign a one year contract. Adam also reported that all reimbursements are up to date.

In terms of the miscellaneous budget matters, the Swampoodle account balance is approximately \$135,000, and the Dick Wolf lecture series account balance is approximately \$3,500. Elizabeth asked about the Swampoodle recordkeeping of applications and grants. Adam will work with Susan B. and Carl to ensure that the records are in order. It was reported that Larry Pearl is ready to solicit additional Swampoodle grant proposals.

Monte observed that the Dick Wolf fund only contains enough money to support one more Dick Wolf award. He suggested that we might want to consider including the Dick Wolf series in the CHRS regular budget. Elizabeth expressed concerns about making Dick Wolf award permanent. Monte suggested that no decision needs to be made now, and that the issue could be revisited in April of 2018.

### **President's Report**

Elizabeth recognized Michelle who reported on the House Expo which will be held on Sunday, October 22. She reported that there would be 35 exhibitors representing a wide variety of products and services. The Renovators House Tour and the Capitol Hill Village will be represented at the event. Chuck

is working on cards to hand out on the day of the event. Set up will begin at 8:00, and the event will last from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Volunteers are especially needed to help with set up.

The preservation café will take place tomorrow, October 18, 2017. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Volunteers are needed to help with Hilloween which will take place on October 27, 2017 at Eastern Market.

### **RFK Stadium Report of the Planning Committee**

The Subcommittee on Federal Lands of the U.S. House of Representatives held a hearing on October 11, 2017 regarding H.R. 3373, legislation to extend of the RFK stadium lease. Monte asked that the board agree to send a statement in conditional support of the bill so long as future use is consistent with Park Service goals and objectives for the surrounding Park property to Public Lands Subcommittee for inclusion in the hearing record. Joanna suggested that the proposed statement was too focused on youth sports venues, and some other minor edits were suggested. Susan O. moved that the Board approve the modified later and Michelle seconded. The measure was approved by voice vote.

### **Eastern Market Report**

Susan reported that the city authorized appraisal of the rental value of the stalls inside Eastern Market has been completed and that the report ignored the cap on rent increases that is part of DC law. EMCAC has asked for DGS to take a more holistic approach to setting market rents. Charles Allen has indicated concern about the appraisal.

### **Historic Preservation**

Beth reported that approximately 60 people attended the Tennessee Avenue, Warren, and C Streets walking tour.

Beth reported that the owners of the bank building in the 600 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE are seeking modifications to the front of their building which would remove the current archways. The owners have been asked for modifications to their proposal.

Ebenezer Church on the 400 block of D Street, SE is seeking permission to construct new townhouses, renovation of existing townhouses, modernization of the church, and creation of a parking area utilizing a stacked mechanical device on the interior of the block. Because there are already curb cuts in the square, HPRB noted that it had no jurisdiction over the new proposed curb cut, access road, or parking lot.

### **Zoning**

Gary was not present for the meeting. The board reviewed his submission.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**



P. O. Box 15264 Washington, D.C. 20003

October 18, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands  
The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Members of Congress:

I write to request that you place the attached statement from Capitol Hill Restoration Society in the official record of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands' hearing of October 11 on H.R. 3373, Representative Norton's bill to extend the lease on the RFK stadium campus. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS) is the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and for over 60 years we have advocated on behalf of the Capitol Hill Community.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at 202 543-0425, email: [caphrs@aol.com](mailto:caphrs@aol.com).

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Nelson, President

Cc:

Deputy Director Bob Vogel, NPS, [Bob\\_Vogel@nps.gov](mailto:Bob_Vogel@nps.gov)  
President and CEO Gregory O'Dell, [GOdell@EventsDC.com](mailto:GOdell@EventsDC.com)  
The Honorable Charles Allen, [callen@dccouncil.us](mailto:callen@dccouncil.us)  
The Honorable Vincent Gray, [vgray@dccouncil.us](mailto:vgray@dccouncil.us)

Attachment

## Statement of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society

Concerning H.R. 3373

The current lease between the National Park Service and the District of Columbia government states that the property can only be used for sports or recreation purposes. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS) supports the bill, which would extend the lease on the RFK Stadium an additional 50 years.

The current lease will help to meet urgent needs for public recreation. Capital Space Partners, a study conducted by the National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission, and DC government found that:...

Washington, like many cities and suburban communities across the country, faces pressure to increase the number of playfields for team sports, including soccer, football, and baseball. The growing population in Washington, along with the demands for active recreation spaces, is exerting pressure on the existing fields. As such, meeting needs for active recreational fields in Washington's urban environment is becoming challenging. ... Locating new fields is both difficult and expensive because of the limited amount of available land.

Capital Space Partners, (2017), p. 64 Capital Space (2010). [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov)

Capital Space cites a growing population and with it, a growing need for recreational areas. p. 29. "When compared to where Washington's parks and open space are located, population growth will put pressure on existing park resources." Office of Planning projects population growth from 672,228 (2015) to 800,000 in 2030 and 987,200 in 2045. We would note as well that a commitment to sports fields would be particularly attractive to young families with children. In conjunction with the NPS's plans for balanced management of Anacostia and Kenilworth Parks, H.R. 3373 will contribute significantly to the emergence of the Anacostia corridor, on both sides of the river, as a vibrant and diverse community based on the unique resource of a fully accessible riverfront in the heart of the nation's capital. With the new soccer stadium on Buzzard Point, Nationals Park on the lower Anacostia, Kingman Island, the Arboretum, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, the arc of potential playing fields along its entire length, accessibility for marinas and water sports, and hiking and biking trails paralleling the river, the Anacostia promises to emerge as one of the nation's finest urban waterfronts and a community sports hub for the entire region. Appropriate redevelopment of the RFK site for community sports purposes – a comparatively large site with Metrorail access precisely in the center of the envisioned Anacostia sports and park arc -- is essential to fulfilling this promise.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society urges that any modifications to the RFK Stadium lease be limited to the following provisions;

1. That any uses of the property be compatible with the Park Service goals and objectives for the surrounding Park property.
2. That the maximum amount of surface paving be removed and converted to sports fields for use by the public.
3. That the existing 250 foot buffer between the leased property and the Anacostia River be extended from 250 feet to 600 feet
4. That the District of Columbia will be responsible for demolition of the existing stadium and that either an indoor cultural use or sports facility (but not a football stadium) and an RFK Memorial be allowed, based on a master plan, approved by NCPC and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.